

RIVER STAGES AND FLOODS FOR OCTOBER 1948

ELMER R. NELSON

River stages during October were above normal in the Missouri and Upper Mississippi River Basins, and in portions of the Ohio River Basin in Ohio and Tennessee. It was mostly below normal in other portions of the country except in the Sacramento and Potomac River Basins and at scattered points throughout the Southern States. River stages were below normal in the New England States for the 4th consecutive month. The greatest negative departure was at Vicksburg, Miss., where the Mississippi averaged 8.8 feet below normal. The greatest positive departure was at Swan Lake, Miss., where the Tallahatchie averaged 3.6 feet above normal. The only flooding during the month was on the Cape Fear and Neuse Rivers in North Carolina and on the Edisto in South Carolina.

Precipitation during the month was below normal throughout the country except at a few scattered coastal and inland points, averaging approximately one-half normal. The greatest precipitation (twice normal) occurred in the southwestern tip of the Southern Plateau States.

Heavy rains occurred in southern Florida in connection with the hurricane of October 5. Rainfall amounts varied from 1 inch in the lower Kissimmee River Basin, to 5.5 to 11.3 inches in the middle and lower Everglades. Sixteen inches was reported near Deerfield Beach, in the Hillsboro Canal Basin. A peak flow of 17,400 c. f. s. was

reached on the Kissimmee River just above the mouth, at Lake Okeechobee, exceeding the previous maximum of September 1933 by 1,800 c. f. s.

Atlantic Slope drainage.—Light flooding occurred in the lower Cape Fear on the 7th and in the Neuse River at Smithfield on the 8th as a result of the heavy rain (averaging nearly 2 inches), over the watersheds of eastern North Carolina on the 4th and 5th. This rain was caused by an intense disturbance which moved up the Carolina Coast with the rain area spreading inland over most of the State. Near bank-full stages were reached on the Tar and Roanoke Rivers.

Light flooding occurred on the Edisto River at Orangeburg and Givhans Ferry Park in South Carolina during the first half of October. No damage was reported except that the water at the waterworks at Orangeburg was adversely affected by the extremely heavy rainfall at and above that point.

FLOOD STAGE REPORT FOR OCTOBER 1948

River and station	Flood stage	Above flood stages— dates		Crest ¹	
		From—	To—	Stage	Date
ATLANTIC SLOPE DRAINAGE					
	<i>Feet</i>			<i>Feet</i>	
Neuse: Smithfield, N. C.-----	13	8	8	13.3	8
Cape Fear: Elizabethtown, N. C.-----	20	7	7	21.3	7
Edisto:					
Orangeburg, S. C.-----	8	1	8	8.9	2
Givhans Ferry, S. C.-----	10	1	16	12.9	12

¹ Provisional.